

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A maleimide cluster comprising at least one core carbohydrate molecule wherein at least two or more maleimides are attached to the core and optionally comprising a protein covalently attached to the maleimide.
2. (Currently amended) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core carbohydrate molecule is a monosaccharide carbohydrate or -eholic acid and wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core.
3. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the maleimides are attached to the core by a linker.
4. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 wherein the two or more maleimides are each attached to the core by a linker.
- 5-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein two or more maleimides are each attached to the core and wherein the core is selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, polyols, oligosaccharides, cyclic oligosaccharides, polyamines, cholic acid, cholesterol, cyclic peptides, porphyrins and calyx[4]arene.
10. (Currently amended) The maleimide cluster of claim 2 7, wherein the core is a monosaccharide.
11. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster of claim 7, wherein the core is a polyol.
- 12-14. (Cancelled)
15. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1, wherein the core comprises cyclodextrin and wherein one or more maleimides are each attached to the cyclodextrin by a linker.

16. (Withdrawn) The maleimide cluster according to claim 1 comprising at least two cores and wherein each core contains one or more maleimides.

17-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A The maleimide cluster multivalent protein comprising the maleimide cluster of claim 2 + further comprising with a protein covalently attached to each of the maleimide, wherein proteins attached to the maleimides have the same or different amino acid sequences.

20-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A method of delivering a peptide drug comprising administering a multivalent peptide containing a therapeutically effective amount of the peptide drug to a patient in need thereof, wherein the multivalent peptide comprises peptides covalently attached to the maleimide cluster of claim 2.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the covalently attached peptides comprises identical amino acid sequence or differ in the amino acid sequence.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A method of making a multivalent protein comprising contacting proteins containing a thiol group with the maleimide cluster according to claim 2 and forming a covalent bond thereto.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the protein comprises identical amino acid sequence or differ in the amino acid sequence.

30-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) The maleimide cluster according to claim 2 comprising a protein covalently attached to each maleimide, wherein the protein is an HIV antigen.